

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A command processing method for a radio LAN (Local Area Network) system which includes a plurality of terminals and at least one base apparatus and wherein a command issued from any of said terminals is received by said base apparatus and information is transmitted from said base apparatus to one or more of the plurality of terminals by radio communication between the terminals and said base apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~a command~~ commands issued from any of said terminals, said commands comprising both competitive commands and non-competitive commands;

determining whether the received command is a competitive command whose acceptance ~~may~~ can result in the ~~a disturbance of information~~ reception of information of any other ~~one~~ of said terminals;

rejecting acceptance of the command if it is determined that said received command is a competitive command; and

issuing a notification of the rejection of the command to the terminal that has issued the command;

whereby the disturbance caused by an acceptance of a competitive command to other terminals that are under a receiving state is minimized.

2. (original) The command processing method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- setting a priority order among said plurality of terminals;
- if it is determined that said received command is a competitive command,

determining whether said priority order of said terminal issuing said command is higher than that of any other of said terminals currently receiving data;

- if it is determined that said priority order of said terminal issuing said command is higher than that of any other of said terminals currently receiving data, accepting said command;

and

- issuing a notification of said acceptance of said command to said other terminals currently receiving data.

3. (original) The command processing method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- setting a predetermined time interval;
- if it is determined that said received command is a competitive command,

determining whether said predetermined time interval has elapsed since the issuance of a command implementing a procedure currently in operation;

- if it is determined that said predetermined time interval has elapsed, accepting said command; and

- issuing a notification of said acceptance of said command to said other terminals currently receiving data.

4. (original) The command processing method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inquiring of said other terminals receiving data whether a particular command may be accepted; and

if a response to said inquiry from all of said other terminals consents to acceptance of said particular command, accepting said particular command.

5. (currently amended) A radio communication apparatus for a radio LAN (Local Area Network) system that includes a plurality of terminals and at ~~least~~ least one base apparatus and wherein a command issued from any of said terminals is received by said base apparatus and information is transmitted from said base apparatus to the terminals by radio communication between the terminals and said base apparatus, said base apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving ~~a command~~ commands issued from any of said terminals, said commands comprising both competitive commands and non-competitive commands;

discrimination means for determining whether the received command is a competitive command whose acceptance ~~may~~ can result in ~~the~~ a disturbance of reception of data of any other ~~one~~ of said terminals, and further determining, based on a result of the determination ~~of whether the received command is a~~ the competitive command, and whether or not the command should be accepted; and

first transmission means for issuing, when said discrimination means determines that acceptance of the command should be rejected, a notification of the rejection of acceptance of the command to the terminal which has issued the command;

whereby the disturbance caused by an acceptance of a competitive command to other terminals that are under a receiving state is minimized.

6. (currently amended) The radio communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

means for setting a priority order among said plurality of terminals;

means for determining whether said priority order of said terminal issuing said command is higher than that of any other of said terminals currently receiving data if it is determined that said received command is a competitive command;

means for accepting said command if it is determined that said priority order of said terminal issuing said command is higher than that of any other of said terminals currently receiving data; and

~~further~~ second transmission means for issuing a notification of said acceptance of said command to said other terminals currently receiving data.

7. (currently amended) The radio communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

means for setting a predetermined time interval;

means for determining whether said predetermined time interval has elapsed since the issuance of a command implementing a procedure currently in process if it is determined that said received command is a competitive command;

means for accepting said command if it is determined that said predetermined time interval has elapsed; and

~~further~~ second transmission means for issuing a notification of said acceptance of said command to said other terminals currently receiving data.

8. (original) The radio communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

means inquiring of said other terminals receiving data whether a particular command may be accepted; and

means for accepting said particular command if a response to said inquiry from all of said other terminals consents to acceptance of said particular command.